



## 2012 Impact report

Justice  
For Iran  
عدالت برای ایران

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## **About Justice for Iran (JFI)**

Justice for Iran (JFI) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization established in 2010. JFI documents human rights violations, collects information, and researches perpetrators of severe and widespread human rights violations in Iran, as well as the use of judicial, political, and international mechanisms, to execute justice, remove impunity and bring about accountability of actors and agents of human rights violations inside of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### **Our Background**

The goal of JFI is to protect and promote human rights through combating impunity. Co-Founders and Directors of JFI, Shadi Sadr and Shadi Amin, began the process by addressing the impunity enjoyed by the representatives of the Iranian regime who systematically sexually abused women to inflict torture and extract confessions. In February 2010, they organised a round table discussion in The Hague with leading women and human rights defenders from Iran as well as international experts on transitional justice and accountability mechanisms. In July 2010, they established Justice for Iran to continue their work on impunity and sexual abuse of women.

### **Advisory Board**

- Professor Yakın Ertürk, Middle East Technical University, Ankara
- Professor Payam Akhavan, McGill University
- Marietje Schaake, Member of the EU Parliament
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### **Co-Founders and Directors**

- Shadi Sadr, Human Rights Lawyer
- Shadi Amin, Researcher, LGBT and Women's Rights Activist

## Highlights of the year

- 13 of our witnesses spoke in mainstream media including BBC Persian TV and Radio Farda and public events. 6 of them for the first time ever appeared in the media.
- In its final judgment, the international panel of Judges for the Iran Tribunal, referring to the findings of our report, concluded that the use of rape had been systematically applied in prisons during the 1980s in Iran. Three public figures (2 academics and 1 journalist) also confirmed, based on the findings of the JFI report, that some types of sexual torture (specifically the rape of virgin girls prior to execution in 80s) were systematically applied.
- JFI research report, Gerdab: A Dictated Scenario; Systematic Torture to Obtain Televised Confessions, was cited by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran in his September report to the UN General Assembly.
- After JFI made the cases of such public, both the UK and USA government issued statements condemning the sexual abuse which female political prisoners in Evin endured including brutal vaginal searches.

## Impacts

### **The punishment of stoning in the new Islamic Penal Code becomes an international concern**

In his report for the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran raised serious concerns about the continuation of stoning as a punishment for adultery in the newly ratified Islamic Penal. He also drew the attention of the international community to the fact that “the Penal Code still discriminates against women, girls, ethnic and religious minorities, increases the severity of punishments for individuals accused of crimes against national security, and still holds juveniles accountable for their crimes unless they can demonstrate that they have not fully understood the criminal nature of their actions”.

JFI was the first human rights organisation that warned of the dangers of passing the new Islamic Penal Code expressing that it would further deteriorate the situation of human rights in Iran particularly in the parts related to adultery, action against national security and religious minorities.

### **More perpetrators are held internationally accountable**

In 2012, a total number of 17 individuals were subjected to restrictive measures including travel bans and frozen assets in the European Union. five individuals had been previously identified by JFI in different reports and statements which made recommendations to the EU to hold them accountable.

The US sanctioned 1 entity (Cyber Office of IRGC) and 2 individuals, whom has already been identified and announced by JFI, because of their involvement in human rights violations.

Press TV and the Islamic Republic 24 hours English channel were also banned by Eutelsat, Hotbird and Intelsat. JFI published an earlier report on the involvement of Press TV in producing and broadcasting confessions of political prisoners taken under duress and torture.

### **Three men are saved**

The execution of Saeed Malekpour, Ahmad Reza Hashem-pour and Mahdi Alizadeh who were been sentenced to death based on coerced televised confessions did not go ahead. Justice for Iran previously documented their plight in the report "[Gerdab: A Dictated Scenario](#)" and ran a media campaign to reveal the mockery of justice in their case.

## **A Glance at Our Activities**

### **Fact-finding**

JFI carried out different fact-finding activities in the field of **women's right**. In collaboration with Women Living Under Muslim Law, we produced and published '[Mapping Stoning in Muslim Contexts](#)' which includes information about all countries where stoning is either prescribed by law or practiced by communities.

JFI also submitted report on the ban on women in higher education to the UN WG on Discrimination against Women as well as the other UN-related bodies and mandates.

**Databank of human rights violators** continued to hold information on individuals who have committed serious human rights violations. Furthermore, JFI carried out research to identify the individuals and entities involved in two specific issues which developed the database. The report "[Gerdab: A Dictated Scenario](#)" investigates the role of Cyber Office of the IRGC in torture, forced confessions, undue process and trials, violation of the right to freedom of speech of bloggers, cyber activism and as 'netizens'. The other report, "[Cut! Take Press TV off the Air](#)" documents the production and broadcast of coerced confessions of political prisoners, journalists, ethnic minority activists and ordinary citizens by Press TV and the Islamic Republic 24 hours English Channel in collaboration with the Iranian Intelligence forces.

'[Iran: an Afghan Free Zone?!](#)' is a compilation of information about the situation of an estimated millions Afghan refugees in Iran who are deprived under new government policies to less than their basic rights and submitted to the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Iran.

The goals for the three-year research project Crime without Punishment were surpassed and 123 cases were documented in a period of two years. In 2012 alone, we interviewed 44 female political prisoners and 8 informants (including lawyers, family members, journalist etc.) and published the book [Crime and Impunity](#) which Professor Janet Afari, a famous historian praised, writing: "what an important historical achievement. The stories are so moving. Made us all proud with the effort you put into this, I am sure it was not easy."

### **Media campaigns**

With the publication of several press releases and statements and through our strong relationship with Iranian journalists based outside of Iran, we launched six media campaign to raise public awareness on different human rights violations and increase pressure on the Iranian government to stop the violations. The press releases on Arab minority political prisoners who were sentenced to death, women political prisoners in Tehran who were subjected to bodily searches and sexually abused received massive coverage from mainstream news outlets such as [the Guardian](#), [BBC Persian](#), [DW](#), to name a few. Furthermore, the media coverage of our press release on the findings of our research reports were tremendous. For example, [VOA](#) broadcast an exclusive report on banning Press TV's programs in Germany because of its involvement in human rights violations.

### Joint actions

In 2012, JFI joined Amnesty International and 5 Iranian human rights organisations in three separate actions. UNODC and other stakeholders reacted to the joint action against the use of death penalty for drug-related offenses.

### Participation in events and conferences

Four public events in Berlin (9th March), Paris (17th March), Hanover (20<sup>th</sup> September), Frankfurt (27<sup>th</sup> September) were held by local organisations to present the results of the Crime Without Punishment project and included speeches by witnesses.

JFI also co-organised the side event, 'Stop Stoning Globally' at the UN headquarter in Geneva where the Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers personally was present among other highly respected speakers, and the Special Rapporteur of Violence against Women addressed the event in a message.

### International Advocacy

In 2011, JFI continued its advocacy work both within the individual member states of the EU and the EU bodies focusing mainly on imposing restrictive measures against more individuals and extending the measures on the entities. In an event organised by Marietje Schaake, a member of European Parliament JFI advisory board, JFI presented the results of its briefing 'Monitoring Report of European Union's Targeted Sanctions against Iranian Officials for Serious Human Rights Abuses' with a series of recommendations to the EU policy makers on how to use human rights sanctions more effectively.

JFI also approached the Malaysian and Afghanistan government through its partner organisations to explore the possibility of adopting a UN resolution which prohibits the practice of stoning internationally.

## Outreach

Although it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of individuals whom JFI have been reached through mainstream media, news websites and other social networking websites, according to tangible data, in 2011 JFI reached and affected at least 27,964 beneficiaries as listed in the following table.

	<b>The nature of JFI relationship with the beneficiaries</b>	<b>Woman</b>	<b>Man</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Interviewees for the CWP's research	49	3		52
2	International influential			467	467
3	Iranian officials and religious leaders		78		78
4	Attendees to public events			320	320
5	Farsi and English websites unique visitors (total 126 contents)			60,361	60,361*

6	YouTube channel visitors to 35 uploaded videos			70,607	70,607
7	Downloads of the first Crime without Punishment's Reports			8,581	8,581
8	Reach of JFI Facebookpage			5,956,859	5,956,859
	Total	49	81	6,097,195	6,097,325

\*Since the website is banned by the Iranian government, Iranian internet users have to use proxies which change their IPs and conceal their locations in order to access it. According to our host's statistics, the IPs of 91% of our visitors is unknown, in terms of location, therefore we can conclude that up to 91% of our users are residing inside Iran.

### Challenges

Throughout the past year, alongside its main project (Crime without Punishment) which was fully funded, Justice for Iran has been incredibly active in many areas which were entirely unfunded. As the only Iranian human rights organisation which focuses on the 'right to justice', we are expected to work on many different issues. In response to the massive expectations as well as our initial commitments to improving the human rights situation in Iran, we had to work on the unforeseen issues as 'happening' mainly by relying on our volunteers' works or our staff overtimes which were voluntarily contributed.

In 2012, many gross human rights violations and serious gender-based discriminations occurred in Iran. Justice for Iran carried out work on these incidents while also working on the main project mentioned above, which caused a few delays in the delivery of the results of the main project, as there were no extra resources to carry out the additional work. This caused us to feel overwhelmed, especially as much of the extra work was unforeseen.

However, we believe this challenge led us to re-strategize the organisation as more program-based and equipped to address any new relevant development rather than a project-based organisation with static activity and frameworks.

### Towards the next year

Justice for Iran cannot solely be a project-based organisation. According to our policy, we should address issues which meet at least two of our three criteria: 1. gross human rights violation 2. neglected by other organisations 3. Gender-based violence involved. Therefore, while we have some ideas which could await development and can be funded project proposals, on the other hand, we have some urgent issues that require urgent actions to have impact. For these kinds of issues, we have

to raise some unrestricted funds in order to address them in an appropriate and timely manner. No one is able to determine what the next issue will be that JFI has to dive into.

### Our supporters

